

2012 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Revenue Sharing

Counties have saved the state **more than a billion dollars since 2005** when they gave up revenue sharing temporarily to help the state with its budget problem. Counties will continue to help the state budget until the final county exhausts its reserve account well past the year 2020.

MAC is committed to reminding the Governor and the Legislature that revenue sharing is more than just a pot of money to be allocated in whole or in part to counties, but that it is statutory promise made to counties that was given in exchange for a change in local taxing administration. Revenue sharing was never intended to be conditional or a reward system, but was established for counties in the 1960's when local taxing authority was forfeited.

MAC will continue to be a positive voice in Lansing illustrating the how counties prior sacrifice on the states behalf, their leadership in the effort to reform, share services, and reduce the size and scope of government, and their efficiency in providing state mandated services for little or no cost to the state should be part of this discussion.

MAC urges the Legislature and the Governor to live up to their end of this important promise which benefits the state and continue revenue sharing payments to the new state of counties in fiscal year 2013.

Personal Property Tax

The Governor and the legislature have been working on tax policy changes over that last year in an effort to enhance the economic climate in Michigan. In addition to enacting the \$1 billion tax cut to business via the Corporate Income Tax, the Governor and many members of the legislature would like repeal personal property tax.

MAC's platform statements, which guide our public policy, clearly state that we would support the repeal of the personal property tax so long as the revenue replacement is guaranteed and replaced in full.

Counties in Michigan have a varied reliance on personal property tax, which account for as little as 2% of a county's total taxable value to as high as 27% of total taxable

value. As we have learned over the years, a statutory provision for funding is a promise made and a promise broken.

MAC will work with the Governor and the Legislature on a Constitutional guarantee for the revenue replacement should personal property tax repeal move forward.

MAC therefore supports elimination of this tax, with corresponding Constitutional funding replacement from the state.

Unfunded Mandates

Court Funding and Administration

While the Supreme Court, though the State Court Administrative Office, seeks to manage the courts in Michigan's 83 counties, the bulk of the funding for those court operations comes from counties. Michigan counties pay over \$500 million each year to run the state's court system, with no control over operational decisions. Not only is the funding inequitably disproportionate, the threat of lawsuits and the annual battle for individual court appropriations is a source of discord between the commissioners and the court. MAC is committed to seeking out creative alternatives to the current structure and working with the State to overcome the that prevent the state from assuming full financial and managerial control over Michigan's court system.

MAC urges the Legislature and Governor to begin the process of bringing Michigan's system of court funding back to the state.

Nuthunded Mandates Package

In 2009, the Legislative Commission on Unfunded Mandates determined that more than \$2.5 billion in services that can be measured, and billions more that cannot be measured, is provided by local units of government for free to the state of Michigan through unfunded mandates. Legislation has been introduced to correct this problem going forward.

There is little that can be done about past state violations of the Constitution, however the legislation would require the state legislature to pay for any new mandates it imposes on counties and other local governments, or else it would become optional. Further, the legislation would make it possible to avoid costly and time-consuming court battles for both sides by streamlining the process by which unfunded mandates are challenged.

MAC supports passage of the Rep. Kowall package of bills to eliminate future unfunded mandates by the legislature on counties and other local units. The package would make it easier for the legislature to follow the Constitution.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TAXATION

Economic Development Tools

Currently counties are at the whim of cities, townships and villages (CTVs) with regard to the implementation of economic development tools. While counties have opt-out provisions for DDAs, TIFAs, and LDFAs that have been created after 1994, capture districts implemented before that continue to capture county revenue, with no consent by the county. These tools can be extended, essentially forever, with no county input.

Additionally, some renaissance zones, enterprise zones and other assorted economic development tools are created by CTVs and only allow public comment period for counties. Even over a county's objection in these comment periods, the CTV can abate county property taxes. Counties, as a more regional voice, are in a better position to help local units of government coordinate and collaborate to help business thrive in Michigan.

MAC will work to ensure that counties have a voice in the economic development activities in their region by strengthening their voice in the tax capture and abatement process.

MAC believes that counties should be the engine for regional collaborative efforts on economic development. If nothing else, counties should be able to opt out of revenue capture or exemption independently of CTVs.

Payment In Lieu of Taxes (See Environmental)

Regulatory Reform

Getting rid of mandates, or making them optional would give county commissioners the ability to look at both their responsibilities and the funding their constituents entrust to them in a more holistic manner. Such mandates range from court funding to public health service mandates. MAC supports making existing mandates optional in order to allow counties the flexibility to govern according to the will of the people they serve, rather than the dictates of Lansing.

Greater Discretion in Setting County Fees

Most fees for county programs are set in state statute even though the state does nothing to manage the programs.

MAC believes that fees for county programs and services should be set by county boards of commissioners, not to exceed the cost of doing business.

Protection of Liquor Tax Revenue

In past budget cycles, attempts have been made to raid the convention facilities fund, or liquor tax revenue, and in 2007, the fund was completely raided.

Counties rely on this source of revenue for substance abuse programs, among other sources, and would oppose utilizing this method to balance the budget.

Property Tax Caps

Counties and other local units of government have been subject to properly tax limitations since 1978. These units cannot increase property taxes above the rate of inflation (or 5%, whichever is less) from one year to the next.

Since 1994, any growth, community-wide, above the rate of inflation, triggers a property tax rollback. These protections have treated Michigan's citizens very well for the past 30 years. Currently, while property values have been falling, it is important for the past 30 years. Currently, while property values have been falling, it is important for the past 30 years.

Any changes to our current property tax structure (for example: "Supercap") need to government harmless.

JUDICIARY & PUBLIC SAFETY

Sentencing Guidelines

As the state's prison system nears capacity, counties' jails face similar problems, with more than 80% of county jails at or over capacity. Many counties have lain off deputy sheriffs which provide secondary road patrol in favor of using those funds to meet their constitutional obligation to operate their jail.

Shifting the sentencing guidelines in a manner which results in more offenders heading to county jails or other local sentencing is a major concern for counties and can exacerbate an already difficult situation. MAC does not support this policy without being protected, dollar for dollar, from an additional funding burden.

County Jail Reimbursement Program (CJRP)

MAC has worked to assist the Department of Corrections for more than ten years in diverting felons from prison by housing them in county jails for a fee. CJRP was established as a way to reimburse counties for jail bed space used to house prisoners traditionally bound for prison. This program has proven to save the state a substantial amount of money, but the program has been so successful that the felons who were traditionally bound for prison are now viewed as traditionally bound for county jail. Many in Lansing are claiming that the reimbursements to counties for housing these prisoners should be re-evaluated since most don't go to prison anymore.

Lately, CJRP has been threatened and MAC believes this program is working well and wishes to continue its progress in helping the state to save money.

E-911 Funding

Michigan's counties are national leaders in providing 911 services. This level of services is made possible by funds (90% of the total) raised at the local level for the purpose of protecting the citizens they serve.

MAC supports retaining funding and organizational control of 911 at the local level. Local funding options must remain diverse and at the discretion of local communities.

MAC opposes any effort by the state to consolidate 911 services into a state department under state control. MAC supports using state grants to offer positive incentives for local units to consolidate 911 services at the local, county, or regional level.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Foster Care / Juvenile Justice (JJ) Reform

Counties are mandated by the state to pay for 50% of the \$37 per day administrative fee charged by private child-placing agencies for foster care. In the past, increases in this fee have resulted in continued increases in county costs. MAC urges the legislature to pay for all administrative costs for foster care, regardless of placement.

Investing in 11 programs that are home and community-based, when public safety is not an issue, results in lower cost and reduced or eliminated placements down the and staff-time to run than traditional residential placements, however, making them more difficult to put in place. MAC encourages the legislature to increase the state reimbursement rate for community-based placements with proven outcomes to encourage counties with barriers to begin using these placement options.

Local Public Health

The state is required by statute to pay for 50% of the cost of mandated local public health services. The state has only met this requirement one time. Counties are paying about 75% of the cost of mandated local public health services, creating a classic example of the burden placed by the state on counties. MAC encourages the legislature to fund its half of mandated local public health services according to the requirements of statute.

Community Mental Health

Appropriate funding of the community mental health system is important to keeping residents of the state healthy, and it benefits both the state and county budget by keeping people out of the judicial system. The ability to provide consistent and seamless care in county jails is also important, and state funding for local mental health needs to be continued to be allowed to be used in county jails so that treatment is not also be continued to be allowed to be used in county jails so that treatment is not supports legislation clarifying the ability of a local CMH system. MAC further supports legislation clarifying the ability of a local CMH to use general funds for treatment in the jail.

County Medical Care Facilities

Michigan's 36 county medical care facilities provide skilled nursing and rehab services to the residents of Michigan, and are mandated to admit those without the ability to pay first, as the safety net for skilled nursing. These facilities primarily serve underserved and rural populations, are considered the standard of care in their field, and enjoy widespread support in their communities. Counties are required to maintain a maintenance of effort (MOE) payment, and the state benefits from the QAAP payments made by the facilities. County Medical Care Facilities support renewal of the MOE for a period of 5 years.

TRANSPORTATION

County Road Commissioners

Currently county road commissioners are selected via appointment or election (33 elected, 48 appointed) but all represent the county at-large. In many cases, all three or five of the elected road commissioners reside in the same geographic location in the county. Allowing county boards the option of creating road commission districts would ensure that every part of the county would receive the proper representation and aftention to the care of their roads as well as provide some accountability to the constituency.

MAC supports legislation giving county boards the option of districting county road commissioners. MAC also supports allowing the board to limit the term of an elected Road Commissioner to four years.

Transportation Funding / Gas Tax Reform

i.ast year, the Transportation Funding Task force made several recommendations to maintain and improve Michigan's infrastructure. These critical recommendations are targeting economic development opportunities and safety issues for this state, through revisions to the various funding mechanisms for all modes of transportation.

Michigan's gas user fee has remained unchanged for more than 10 years. MAC supports increasing the gas user fee by nine cents, three cents per year for three consecutive years, and sunsetting it in 7 years to reassess technological advances.

Also, Michigan's diesel fuel user fee has remains at a different rate than the motor fuel user fee. MAC supports raising the diesel fuel tax rate to match the rate on motor fuels. MAC strongly opposes any efforts to divert fuel tax revenue for other uses and supports the ability for individual counties to collect a gas tax which is applied for that specific county.

County Airports

The state of aeronautical infrastructure in Michigan is currently at a critical tipping point.

MAC urges the Bureau of Aeronautics and Department of Transportation to adequately fund the growing need of Michigan air service. MAC supports adequate State funds to continue to match federal funding and to leverage as many federal dollars as possible in ALL categories.

LATUBMNORIVNE

Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT)

Counties with large tracts of DNR owned property rely on PIL T to help fund essential services. This funding source for locals has endured a five year freeze on assessments and needs to be protected. The state has a great appetite for purchasing land, and a poor track record of paying its taxes. Counties should also have the option of vetoing state land purchases in their jurisdiction.

MAC supports full payment of PILT by the state. Further, if property is coming off the tax rolls and the state cannot adequately pay its property taxes, locals should have the right to refuse these purchases.

Agriculture and Tourism

Tourism has become one of the fastest growing sectors of Michigan's economy; promote the growth of this industry. Agriculture has proven to be the one stable part of Michigan's economy.

MAC urges the legislature to continue funding local Conservation Districts and Michigan State University Extension to assist with the preservation of forest land, water, farm land, and other natural resources. These programs are active partners with local units of government and their resources.

Renewable Energy

While Michigan's leaders continue efforts to diversify our state economy, the renewable residents must have a say, however, and must also benefit from any development of renewable resources.

As Michigan moves towards meeting its RPS goals, MAC supports legislation for statewide development of renewable energy resources and energy conservation that ablinty to negotiate appropriate royalties to the benefit of the citizens who are affected by the new development.



Governor's 2014 County Revenue Sharing

	FY 2013 Final Appropriation	Fiscal Year 2014 Recommendation			FY2014 Full	Governor's	
County		State Revenue Sharing Paymen		Govenor's Recommneded Tota	Funding	Recommended FY2014	
Alger	\$148,911	\$118,293	\$29,573	\$147,866	\$191,785	\$43,919	
Allegan	\$1,746,496	\$1,387,594	\$346,899	\$1,734,493	\$2,249,667	\$515,174	
Alpena	\$566,882	\$448,997	\$112,249	\$561,246	\$727,946	\$166,700	
Arenac	\$261,419	\$207,632	\$51,908	\$259,540	\$336,628	\$77,088	
Baraga	\$7,155	\$115,693	\$28,923	\$144,616	\$187,569	\$42,953	
Barry	\$889,477	\$707,968	\$176,992	\$884,960	\$1,147,808	\$262,848	
Bay	\$2,012,896	\$1,594,311	\$398,578	\$1,992,889	\$2,584,811	\$591,922	
Berrien	\$2,822,629	\$2,247,624	\$561,906	\$2,809,530	\$3,644,008	\$834,478	
Branch	\$753,467	\$596,779	\$149,195	\$745,974	\$967,541	\$221,567	
Calhoun	\$2,334,541	\$1,849,069	\$462,267	\$2,311,336	\$2,997,842	\$686,506	
Cass	\$808,641	\$642,437	\$160,609	\$803,046	\$1,041,564	\$238,518	
Chippewa	\$55,228	\$442,840	\$110,710	\$ 553,550	\$717,964	\$164,414	
Clinton		\$413,477	\$103,369	\$516,846	\$670,358	\$153,512	
Clare	\$502,688	\$398,172	\$99,543	\$497,715	\$645,545	\$147,830	
Delta	\$624,614	\$494,898	\$123,725	\$618,623	\$802,364	\$183,741	
Dickinson	\$270,204	\$353,406	\$88,352	\$441,758	\$572,968	\$131,210	
aton	\$1,721,740	\$1,367,395	\$341,849	\$1,709,244	\$ 2,216,918	\$507,674	
Senesee	\$7,698,540	\$6,097,598	\$1,524,400	\$7,621,998	\$9,885,860	\$2,263,862	
Bladwin	\$396,741	\$314,239	\$78,560	\$392,799	\$509,467	\$116,668	
iogebic	\$263,055	\$209,065	\$52,266	\$261,331	\$338,951	\$77,620	
ratiot	\$668,890	\$529,793	\$132,448	\$662,241	\$858,938	\$196,697	
illsdale	\$731,301	\$579,187	\$144,797	\$723,984	\$939,019	\$215,035	
oughton	\$531,601	\$421,053	\$105,263	\$526,316	\$682,641	\$156,325	
uron	\$618,346	\$494,387	\$123,597	\$617,984	\$801,536	\$183,552	
gham	\$4,725,309	\$3,756,763	\$939,191	\$4,695,954	\$6,090,732	\$1,394,778	
nia	\$917,347	\$726,583	\$181,646	\$908,229	\$1,177,988	\$269,759	
sco	\$413,688	\$327,860	\$81,965	\$409,825	\$531,550	\$121,725	
on	\$74,406	\$166,988	\$41,747	\$208,735	\$270,733	\$61,998	
abelia	\$968,681	\$767,234	\$191,808	\$959,042	\$1,243,894	\$284,852	
ckson	\$2,627,396	\$2,081,024	\$520,256	\$2,601,280	\$3,373,904	\$772,624	
nlamazoo	\$4,038,583	\$3,201,520	\$800,380	\$4,001,900	\$5,190,532	\$1,188,632	
ent	\$9,387,888	\$7,433,957	\$1,858,489	\$9,292,446	\$12,052,459	\$2,760,013	
peer	\$1,302,133	\$1,031,352	\$257,838	\$1,289,190	\$1,672,101	\$382,911	
nawee	\$1,579,824	\$1,255,406	\$313,851	\$1,569,257	\$2,035,353	\$466,096	

Page 1 of 2

Governor's Recommended FY2014	IIu-1 4r02Y-1 Gnibnu-1	noisebnemn	FY 2013 Final				
Ju2	JunomA	Governor's Recommended Total	Eligible CiP	State Revenue Sharing Payment	Appropriation	Connty	
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E11'112 \$	862,201,6\$	\$81,465,2 \$	7£8,87 4 \$	\$ \ \$16'12	670,EST \$	Monroe	
₹284 627	116,242,911	\$82'896\$	499°161 \$	729,897\$	906'496\$	Montcalm	
616 , 428 \$	\$3,602,265	9 1 2,777,2 \$	697'555\$	\$2,221,877	\$5,805,230	Muskegon	
\$218,563	£24,423	098,357\$	271,741 \$	889'885\$	843,248	Иеwaygo	
678, <u>5</u> 21 \$	317,3E3 \$	9E0,E1 4 \$	70 9,28 \$	\$330 , 429	994,8356	Oceana	
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\$860,051	189,237,6\$	\$2,895,630	921,673	\$2,316,504	0 ▶ 2,672,1 \$	St. Clair	
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\$251,385	09Z'Z60, L \$	\$96,365	£7S,e31 \$	260,776\$	\$85 4 ,862	Tuscola	
\$392,346	\$1,538,629	\$82,381,1\$	\$237,257	920'676\$	£61,891,1 \$	Van Buren	
\$1,582,427	£81,016,8 \$	9£7,7SE, 2 \$	249'990'l\$	\$4 ,262,189	\$1,224,414	Washtenaw	
\$11,456,526	\$6 1 ,820,02\$	276,172,8 6 \$	\$65,417,7 \$	872,728,05\$	122,959,85\$	Wayne	
\$153,926	\$91,279\$	\$218,239	8103,648	169'717\$	\$566,063	Wexford	
178,087,1 1 8	\$182,360,572	100,009,041\$	\$28,120,002	4112,479,999	766,660,051 \$	Total	

Data Source: House Fiscal Agency



County Government Service Sharing

Consolidations and Shared Services

- Alger partners with other counties for their community corrections programs, inmate lodging,
 911 services and emergency management plans
- Berrien covers 911 dispatch responsibilities for two other local units of government and their emergency dispatch covers over 85% of the residents of the county at this point
- Clinton and Gratiot already share the 29th judicial circuit court and the department of Human Services
- Clinton, Eaton and Ingham share Community Mental Health Services, a Metro Narcotics Squad, an Office of Aging and a Regional Planning Commission
- Clinton, Eaton, Ingham and the City of Lansing work together as the Capital Region Airport Authority
- Clinton, Gratiot, Montcalm share a District Health Department
- Crawford shares same tax/assessing software with other local units making for easier data transfers and also shares the cost of a Sherriff's Deputy with the local school system
- Eaton contracts with charter townships for police services
- Kent along with the cities of Grand Rapids, Grandville, Walker, and Wyoming partnered with the Michigan State Police and other police, fire, and emergency medical service providers to create a regional 911 Authority. The 911 Authority has consolidated the 911 call-taking function and reduced the number of call-centers from five to two
- Grand Traverse recently added 5 townships to its sewer and water system and septage treatment plant
- Gogebic provides GIS computer services to 4 counties and LEIN services to police agencies.
 Gogebic also shares an airport and animal shelter with Iron County, Wisconsin
- Ingham and Clinton share Veterans Affairs
- Ingham collaborates with cities of Lansing and East Lansing to implement a dispatch center
- Ingham's Health Department provides medical direction and program consultation to the Ionia County Health Department
- Isabella provides building inspection services to the City of Mount Pleasant, 12 of 14 townships, and three villages within the boundaries of Isabella; along with providing inspections by contract to Clare and several Clare County municipalities. Isabella also provides curbside recycling services, by contract, to several townships and villages
- Jackson provides IT services to the road commission and the medical care facility, contributes HR services to the City of Jackson and shares a medical director and health officer with Livingston
- Kent alone is engaged in over 80 public/private or public/public partnerships. A complete list is available online at their website

- Lapeer shares an Equalization Director & Veterans Affairs Director with St. Clair. Lapeer also shares a Medical Director with 4 other counties and shares Community Corrections Services
- with Tuscola

 Manistee contracts with all townships, villages and the city of Manistee to maintain tax roll and provide tax bill preparation services. Manistee also contracts with the County Library, 911, and the shared Benzie County Courts for preparation of payroll and administration of employee
- Mason is part of a 10 county health department that helped to create a Health Plan Corporation to provide health care to low income citizens. Mason also shares a 3 county mental health authority, a 3 county 211 system, a multi-county substance abuse entity and a 3 county DHS administrative office. Mason and the City of Ludington shares a regional sewage treatment plant with the city of Ludington, Pere Marquette Charter Township, the City of Scottville, Amber Township, Victory Township, West Shore Community College, and the City of Ludington and Mason and Victory Township, West Shore Community College, and the City of Ludington and Mason and their Chamber of Commerce share staff for their economic development offices.
- Mason provides zoning enforcement for the 12 townships within the county and provides payroll and accounting staff services to the District Library

 Mason and City of Ludipaton concolidated the city and county libraries into a countywide.
- Mason and City of Ludington consolidated the city and county libraries into a countywide
- Midland and the city of Midland trade use of equipment and jointly use a Law Enforcement
 Center building to house their Midland County Sherriff's Office, the Midland City Police and the
- 911 Dispatch

 Midland and Bay along with the cities of Midland and Saginaw jointly own the MBS
- International Airport

 Oceans contracts with the Medical Care Facility for IT support to save money however with equipment in each police cruiser, Oceans County wishes it could provide its own IT support
- Ogemaw shares an IT Director with Ogemaw County Road Commission
- Osceola partners with Mecosta for District, Probate and Family court services and 911 Central Dispatch Authority. They also share services with several counties for public and mental health that are provided by regional area Community Mental Health for Central Michigan and Central Michigan District Health Department.
- Otsego runs the zoning for all 9 townships in the county with the townships and county sharing
- the cost **Schoolcraft** shares a Circuit Court's Scheduling Clerk shared with Luce, Alger and Mackinaw
- Counties. Schoolcraft is part of a 4 County Judicial Committee: All four counties are purchasing folders
- and forms together Schoolcraft shares retirement administration and payroll/human resources with Housing
- Commission, Commission on Aging, Medical Care Facility, Public Transit

 Tuscola and Sanilac share animal control services saving Tuscola \$100,000 a year. Tuscola also
- shares an Equalization Director with Huron

 Washtenaw joined together with the City of Ann Arbor to provide dispatch services jointly

Emergency Management Plan

fringe benefits.

- Alger has created and run an emergency management plan that is countywide
- Bay created an emergency preparedness plan including setting up an offsite computer back up and alternative work space and has created BAY alerts that are mass notification system that provides emergency information in the form of text, email, pages and phone calls to Bay County residents

- Ingham is participating in the preparation of a Tri-County Hazard Mitigation Plan
- Mason works with their surrounding counties in providing emergency management services and training on a regional basis and also participates in the development a hazard mitigation plan for the region
- Midland maintains an emergency management program and shares this service with the city of midland who participates in the Midland County Emergency Management program

Recycling & Recreation

- Crawford partnered with other local units for a county-wide recycling system for all residents
- Mason along with other counties, cities, and townships developed a county household hazardous waste clean-up events for residents. Mason also partnered with Consumers Energy to fund and staff a County Park
- Tuscola developed a tire recycling program with funds from a Mosquito Abatement mileage.
 They partner with other local units to recycle tires on the sides of the road resulting in 6,400 tires being collected

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